

March 20, 2019

Arthur Burbank
USDA Forest Service
4350 South Cliffs Dr.
Pocatello, ID 83204

**Subject: Biological Selenium Removal Treatment Technology
 Water Treatment Pilot Study
 February 2019 Progress Report**

Dear Art,

This progress report summarizes key activities in February 2019 associated with Phase 2 of the Water Treatment Pilot Study located near Hoopes Spring. This Pilot Study is being conducted as part of the Smoky Canyon Mine Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to provide information on the effectiveness of the active biological treatment system in removing selenium and other COPCs from South Fork Sage Creek Springs and Hoopes Spring.

Work related to the approved Phase 2 Pilot Study continues at the site in accordance with the Final *Phase 2 Pilot Study Work Plan and Sampling and Analysis Plan, Ultra-Filtration/Reverse Osmosis and Biological Selenium Removal Fluidized Bed Bioreactor Treatment Technology* (Phase 2 WP/SAP).

Identification of Deliverables and Data Transmittals

There were no outstanding deliverables or transmittals for the month of February. No system analytical data was collected in February due to the system being down.

Completed Activities

The following activities associated with the Phase 2 Pilot Study were completed in February 2019:

- System operation was suspended on January 28. It was thought that the majority of the activated sludge in the post treatment system was accidentally wasted and dewatered with the centrifuge. A recent inspection found that the upper seal of the clarifier had failed, causing the system to short circuit. The system is being repaired but will remain off line until the biological community is regrown in the post treatment system.

Since full scale operations began in early December 2017 approximately 1,037 million gallons of impacted water has been treated. The mass of selenium removed from December 2017 through February 2019 is approximately 1,070 pounds.

Upcoming Activities

The following activities associated with the Phase 2 Pilot Study are planned through March 2019:

- Complete repairs to post treatment system.
- Continue to build post treatment biological community and restart system.
- Continue system monitoring in accordance with the sampling and analysis plan once restarted.

Please contact me if there are questions regarding this monthly progress report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Hamilton", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeffrey Hamilton
Environmental Engineer

cc:

Arthur Burbank – USFS, 410 East Hooper, Soda Springs, ID 83276
Sherri Stumbo – USFS, 4350 South Cliffs Dr., Pocatello, ID 83204
Rick McCormick – Jacobs, email only
Doug Scott – Jacobs, email only
Ralph Oborn – IDEQ, email only
Brady Johnson – IDEQ, email only
Kathryn Venable – IDEQ, email only
Colleen O'Hara – BLM, email only
Matt Wilkening – USEPA, email only
Sandi Fisher – USFWS, email only
Jeremy Moore – USFWS, 4425 Burley Dr., Suite A, Chubbuck, ID 83202
Kelly Wright – Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, P.O. Box 306, Fort Hall, ID 83203
Susan Hanson – (b) (6) Pocatello, ID 83202
Gary Billman – IDL, email only
Alan Prouty – J.R. Simplot Company, email only
Lori Hamann – J.R. Simplot Company, email only
Jon Witt – J.R. Simplot Company, 1099 West Front Street, Boise, ID 83702
Dedra Williams – J.R. Simplot Company, email only
Chad Gentry – J.R. Simplot Company, email only
Ron Quinn – J.R. Simplot Company, P.O. Box 1270, Afton, WY 83110
Andy Koulermos – Formation Environmental, email only
Lily Vagelatos – Formation Environmental, email only
Jeremy Aulbach – Brown and Caldwell, email only